(b) Data regarding value of stores rejected and settled at price reduction and that finally rejected at users' end is not being maintained. However, the value of stores rejected finally at users' end in respect of stores inspected by Inspection Wing of DGS&D is given below:—

1989-90	Rs. 11.00 lakhs
1990-91	Rs. 23.00 lakhs
1991-92	Rs. 17.00 lakhs

(c) In so far as DGS&D Inspection is concerned the time schedule prescribed/laid down with regard to inspection of stores and release of inspection notes has been generally met.

Commitments by Russia for Supply of Goods and Equipments

4227. SHRI AJIT P. K JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

es030(a) whether it is a fact that Russian is backing out from their commitments and many articles, equipments and goods promised by former Soviet Union have found way to hard currency areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with successor states of Soviet Union;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU TION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Following dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Government of Russia and evinced interest in modifying a number of agreements between India and the former Soviet Union. As a consequence, a new agreement on trade and economic co-operation was signed between India and Russia on May 4, 1992. This agreement provides for all payments in settlement to be effected in freely convertible currencies unless otherwise specified by any intergovernmental agreement. Subsequently an agreement was reached delineating repayments through exports of commodities by India of the debts that it owed to the former Soviet Union. The trade and economic cooperation agreement also provides for trade to be carried on the basis of counter trade or any other internationally recognised form of business cooperation.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Estimate for Quantity of Fluecured Tobacco available in A.P.

4228. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has made any estimate of the total quantity of fluecured tobacco available in Andhra Pradesh at the beginning of the seasons during this year; and

(b) the total quantity of this fluecured tobacco purchased in Andhra Pradesh at various auction platforms run by Tobacco Board during this calender year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 125.60 M. Kgs of 1992-93 AP. crop was marketed at various auction platforms in AP

Abolition of Minimum Export Prices for Agricultural Commodities

4229. SHRI V.HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced the abolition of Minimum Export Prices for certain agricultural commodities;

(b) the names of all these commodities whose M.E.P. was removed during this financial year;

(c) what are the reasons for this policy;

(d) what crops from Andhra Pradesh have thus been affected; and

(e) whether the farmers in Andhra Pradesh would pay a steep price for removal of the M.E.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU-

TION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e) Under the new Exim Policy the condition of MEP for VFC tobacco, ASTA Quality—MGI pepper, guar gum, orchids and meat of sheep, goat and buffalo was done away with as a measure of trade liberalisation. It is expected that such liberalisation would eventually help exports and also the farmers.

4230. *[Transferred to 25th August. 1993]*

Constitution of Anti-dumping Practices *Cel'*

4231. SHRI IQBAL SINGH.
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high power cell to deal with anti-dumping practices;

(b) if so, what would be the main objectives of this cell; and

(c) if so, what is the extent to which the setting up of this cell has helped in checking anti-dumping practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as amended in October, *I982,* empowers Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped imports are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before such a duty can be imposed, the Authority designated by the Government has to make a finding as to the export price, normal value, margin of dumping and injury to the domestic industry. The Central Government, on the basis of the findings, takes a decision on the imposition of anti-dumping duty.

Government has since put in place the necessary arrangements to investigate and redress cases of injurious dumping.

Anti-dumping actions are directed at the pricing policies of individual companies in respect of the products alleged to be dumped.

The designated authority has submitted the final findings in the anti-dumping investigation, concerning import of PVC resin (Suspension Grade). The authority has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of PVC resin (Suspension Grade) from Brazil, Republic of Korea, Mexico and USA The designated authority has, in the preliminary findings concerning import of Bisphenol-A recommended imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty on import of Bisphenol-A from Japan.

Assistance offered by Israel to Indian Exporters

4232. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has offered assistance to Indian exporters and enterpreneurs wanting easy access to the USA European Community and EFTA countries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are preparing any scheme to take advantage of such an offer, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated volume of trade that the Government envisages through this channel and what are the implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Government have not received any such offer.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Irregularities committed in the Export Credit Scheme, 1968

4233. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) indicated to the Commerce Ministry, the irregularities committed in the Export Credit (Interest Subsidy) Scheme, 1968 leading to an excess payment of Rs. 7.68 crores between January 1, 1987 and March 31, 1991, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what steps Government have taken to rectify the situation, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAG indicated to the Ministry that in the area of cash assistance there has